

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the paragraph of the Specification, beginning on page 10, line 19 to page 11, line 3, as follows:

It will be appreciated that the improvement in the transmitted signal generally is based at least in part on whether the mean free path is lateral (i.e., along the conductor) or ~~transverse~~ transverse (i.e., across the conductor). Generally, ~~transverse~~ transverse smoothing provides a more significant improvement in the signal transmission than that provided by lateral smoothing. For example, in certain instances it has been found that signal improvements for lateral smoothing can result up to 20% improvement while signal improvements resulting from transverse polishing can improve 50% or more.